

AGENDA: May 25, 2004

4.8

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: Public Works

TITLE: Support for SB 1087 – Safe Routes to School

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee and Mountain View's local representatives supporting SB 1087, reauthorization of Safe Routes to School.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the City in supporting the Senate bill; however, there is the possibility the City could receive Safe Routes to School funds in the future if the program is reauthorized.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The Safe Routes to School program began in 2000 and funds construction projects protecting children walking or biking to and from school. It is funded by the Federal highway program and does not impact the State budget. The bill's sponsor, Nell Soto of the 32nd District, is requesting cities support reauthorization of the bill for three additional years by sending letters to the Appropriations Committee and our local representatives, see Attachments 1 and 2.

In 2000, Mountain View received \$244,300 for permanent traffic circles on Farley Street and a bicycle path at Theuerkauf Elementary and Crittenden Middle Schools. More recently, the City was authorized to receive \$258,000 for speed warning signs and countdown pedestrian signals near all elementary and middle schools in the City. The signs will be installed this summer prior to the start of the fall school term.

According to State statistics, up to 5,000 pedestrians are killed or injured annually in California due to traffic accidents, the second leading cause of fatal injuries to children aged 5 to 12. Bicycle crashes are the fifth leading cause of deaths.

Numerous public agencies and private bicycle groups support reauthorization of the bill, and to date, there is no recorded opposition. See Attachment 3 for a list of supporters.

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PUBLIC NOTICING – Agenda posting.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Joan Jenkins
Transportation and Policy Manager

Cathy R. Lazarus
Public Works Director

Kevin C. Duggan
City Manager

JJ/9/CAM
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Attachments: 1. Letter
2. SB 1087
3. List of Supporters

cc: SAA – Skinner, TE, ATE, DE, CPM, F/c